



DONALD L. WOLFE, Director

# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"*

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April 10, 2007

IN REPLY PLEASE

REFER TO FILE: **FL-0**

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO PURCHASE EQUIPMENT  
ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS  
3 VOTES**

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:**

Approve Public Works to acquire maintenance equipment at a total cost of \$1,100,000 budgeted in Public Works' Fiscal Year 2006-07 Internal Service Fund Fixed Asset Equipment appropriation.

**PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

This request is to comply with the County Equipment Policy (Policy) that your Board approved on October 16, 2001. This Policy requires Board approval prior to County departments purchasing/financing equipment with a unit cost of \$250,000 or greater. Therefore, we are requesting approval to purchase two D-8 tractor dozers budgeted in Public Works' Fiscal Year 2006-07 Internal Service Fund Fixed Asset Equipment appropriation.

This purchase is a replacement for two existing D-8 tractor dozers (Vehicle Nos. 64-055 and 64-057) at a cost of \$550,000 per tractor. These D-8 tractor dozers play a major role in supporting Flood Maintenance Division's West and South Areas' emergency storm operations and post-storm damage repairs. They are also used for debris basin cleanouts, basin-bottom ripping at spreading grounds, reshaping basin slopes at the spreading grounds, levee repair, and emergency repairs of debris basins and unlined channel slopes.

The D-8 dozer tractor is an important piece of equipment to keep timely schedules for stream alteration agreements related to National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit compliance and other routine activities. The existing D-8 tractor dozers are 16 years old. Vehicle 64-055 has logged 9,062 hours of operation and Vehicle 64-057 has logged 7,989 hours of operation. The replacement criterion for this equipment is 8,000 hours or 15 years. In the last three years, each vehicle has seen an average of 37 days in shop downtime. Public Works' Fleet Management Group's Equipment Condition Report states that both tractor engines lack power and received an overall rating of poor. The equipment condition report also gives a very poor rating for the under-cab body and frame.

The cost to replace the existing D-8 tractor dozers with a current generation unit is \$550,000 per unit, and the expected life of a new D-8 tractor dozer is 8,000 hours or 15 years. A comparable unit rents for \$12,000 per month or \$144,400 per year. Over the span of 15 years, that equates to \$2,160,000 per tractor dozer. It is recommended that Public Works replace these units with two new D-8 tractor dozers instead of renting a similar unit because of the following:

- They will be more reliable than the existing tractor dozers for daily maintenance activities.
- They will have less downtime for repair and maintenance.
- They will be available at anytime of the day when rental equipment may not be available.
- They will be less costly over time than renting a similar unit.
- They will fully comply with current standards and regulations.

### **Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals**

This action meets the County Strategic Plan Goals of Service Excellence, Organizational Effectiveness, and Fiscal Responsibility. This action will enable Public Works to continue to provide County residents with enhanced responsive, efficient, and effective flood control facilities maintenance.

### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

There is no impact to net County cost as a result of this purchase. The cost for this acquisition is \$1,100,000 and is included in Public Works' Fiscal Year 2006-07 Internal Service Fund Fixed Asset Equipment appropriation.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
April 10, 2007  
Page 3

### **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

On October 16, 2001, your Board adopted a Policy whereby departments will obtain Board approval to purchase or finance equipment with a unit cost of \$250,000 or greater prior to submitting their requisitions to purchasing.

### **IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)**

The approval of this request will enable Public Works to continue to perform its routine flood maintenance activities in a more efficient and cost-effective manner.

Your approval will allow Public Works to replace outdated maintenance equipment and continue to provide flood control services to County residents.

### **CONCLUSION**

One adopted copy of this letter is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

DONALD L. WOLFE  
Director of Public Works

MB:rf

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cc: Chief Administrative Office  
County Counsel

bc: Budget/Fund Management (Bloomstone)  
Flood Maintenance (Blanco)  
Fleet Management (Manning)